

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 ACDA-19 SCI-06 H-03 SS-20

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 PM-07 SP-03

MC-02 /135 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS:CEK
APPROVED BY NEA - ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR.
AEC - MR FRIEDMAN (SUBST)
ACDA - MR LINEBAUGH
SCI - MR POLLACK
H -
EUR/CE - MR GEORGE
NEA - MR SAUNDERS
P - MR. DJEREJIAN
S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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P 151716Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178800

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG
SUBJECT: QATTARA PROJECT

1. AS YOU ARE AWARE THE GERMANS HAVE OFFERED TO DO A NEW
FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE QATTARA PROJECT INCLUDING THE
USE OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS TO MAKE THE CANAL FROM
THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE QATTARA DEPRESSION. THE GERMAN
ORGANIZATION INVOLVED HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO COORDINATE
WITH THE US AEC CONCERNING THIS STUDY. THE AEC RESPONDED
BY INVITING THE GERMANS TO A MEETING IN WASHINGTON TO
DISCUSS A FEASIBILITY STUDY IN A CAREFULLY WORDED LETTER
WHICH SPOKE ONLY ABOUT LEARNING QUOTE MORE ABOUT YOUR
STUDY AND YOUR INTEREST UNQUOTE AND QUOTE MORE OF THE
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DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT UNQUOTE. IN THEIR RESPONSE

DATED JULY 12, 1974, THE GERMANS NOMINATED THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THEIR DELEGATION AND INDICATED THAT THEY WILL ALSO BRING ALONG THE EGYPTIAN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER, MR. ABAZA. .

2. THE DEPARTMENT, ACDA, AND THE AEC ALL AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR A HIGH RANKING EGYPTIAN TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS VISIT BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT SENSITIVITY IN THE CONGRESS TO THE QUESTION OF INTRODUCING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY INTO THE MIDDLE EAST. THE GERMANS HAVE INFORMED US THAT THEY ARE NOT FULLY COMMITTED TO INCLUDING MR. ABAZA IN THEIR DELEGATION AND ARE INFORMING HIM THAT HIS PARTICI-

PATION WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME. THE GERMAN DELEGATION WILL ACCORDINGLY PROCEED WITHOUT ABAZA AND THEY HAVE BEEN CAUTIONED THAT THEIR VISIT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PURELY A DISCUSSION OF THIS PROJECT AND THAT NOTHING CONCRETE SHOULD BE EXPECTED AS A RESULT.

3. NEA/EGY DIRECTOR MATTHEWS RAISED THIS PROBLEM WITH OMAR SIRRI, AUGUST 13. SIRRI EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE THAT MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY WAS CONSIDERING SENDING A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL TO THE US AT THIS TIME SINCE IT HAD BEEN TOLD NOT TO DO SO. SIRRI ENTIRELY AGREED THAT EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GERMAN DELEGATION WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY OF THIS MATTER. HE ALSO URGED THAT THE VISIT OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION BE KEPT OUT OF THE PRESS, A POSITION WITH WHICH WE ENTIRELY AGREE.

4. GHORBAL SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED ATHERTON ON FAHMY'S INSTRUCTIONS TO SAY FAHMY AGREED AND REQUESTED THAT AMB. EILTS BE ASKED TO INFORM MINISTER OF POWER SULTAN THAT ABAZA SHOULD CANCEL TRIP.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM SULTAN AND/OR MR. ABAZA AS TACTFULLY AS POSSIBLE OF OUR CONCERN THAT A VISIT AT THIS TIME BY A SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL CONCERNED WITH THIS SUBJECT COULD BE MISINTERPRETED IN THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESS AND HURT OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE CONGRESSIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROVAL OF THE NUCLEAR REACTOR FOR EGYPT. YOU SHOULD TELL THEM THIS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH FAHMY IN WASHINGTON, WHO ASKED THAT YOU CONVEY HIS AGREEMENT WITH OUR VIEWS. KISSINGER

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